S-69 Reward Williams Point Private

Mid eighteenth century, April 18, 1794

Significantly unusal among the early houses of Somerset County, Reward was built on the edge of the Pocomoke Sound during the middle years of the eighteenth century. As originally erected, the squarish, Flemish bond brick house was covered by a jerkinhead roof. In addition to an uncoventional roof shape, the four-room plan dwelling was heated by corner hearths, and rising from the southeast side are the only diamond chimeny stacks extant in Maryland. Attached to the north side of the main block is a frame hyphen which connects a story-and-a-half brick-ended kitchen. The construction of the kitchen is documented by a datebricks marked April 18, 1794.

It is not certain when, or by whom, the early brick house was erected, but architectural evidence suggests it was raised during the period (1740-1760) for Elias White, who had the property resurveyed under the name of "White's Gift" on March 9, 1759, for 626 acres. White family occupation of the property dates to 1687 when Stephen White, Elias's grandfather, inherited the tract from William Stevens. Elias White eventually mortgaged large portions of his plantation, and during the early 1770s his holdings were divided and sold. On November 22, 1773, "White's Gift" was purchased by David Williams for £1065 (F/123).

One year later, the Pocomoke river plantation was resurveyed once again as, "Williams Green." David Williams died in 1782, and his wife, Martha, was assessed for her land the next year. With its situation, "on the Mouth of the Pocomoke," Williams Green consisted of 488 acres and contained, "A Brick wall dwelling house, three rooms below in midling repair, kitchen, barn, and other

improvements indifferent." Martha Williams' estate was valued at £1245. David Williams' will had bequeathed one-half interest to his wife, Martha, while the remaining half was to pass to their son Thomas, when he arrived at the age of twenty-one.

Thomas Williams predeceased his mother, for in 1798 Thomas' heirs, Martha and Katherine Williams, are listed in the tax assessment. Their plantation was described as,

Situate on the mouth of the Pocomoke River adjoining a fast landing on said river. I Dwelling House 30 by 30 one story high with 3 windows 5½ feet by 3 feet, 2 windows 4½ feet by 2½ feet, and 4 windows 3½ feet by 2½ feet, brick walls and wood roof, 1 kitchen 18 by 22 with a covered wasy from said kitchen to the dwelling house of wood.

By 1809 Thomas Williams was dead, and one-half interest in "Williams Green" was inherited by Amelia Gale, who with her husband, General John Gale, sold her share in the plantation to Ralph Milbourn, who in turn sold 300 acres to John Milbourn in 1817 (see T/270 and JD 2/377). The Milbourns retained ownership until 1847, when John Milbourn sold the plantation to William Adams (WP 2/12). Since the mid nineteenth century, the Williams Point farm has passed through a half-dozen hands until the current sowner acquired the property.

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(Rev. 6-72) NA	TIONAL PARK SERVICE	ļ	Maryl	and
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Williams Point Farm, or the Reward, is located at the confluence of the Pocomoke River and Pocomoke Sound on Williams Point Road, about one mile southwest of Shelltown.

This one-and-one-half story dwelling has a steep gable roof with two diamond shaped chimney stacks piercing the east slope of the roof. The stacks join at the top two courses and rise well above the roof peak. The main block of the house is three bays wide and two deep and constructed of whitewashed brick laid in Flemish bond.

The south gable end, overlooking the water, has a center door with a single window, twelve over twelve, in each flanking bay. The three gable windows are tall and narrow, having nine over nine lights. Above these windows the gable is covered with white clapboard.

The north end has two windows in the second story and the same clapboard treatment in the gable. To the north is a one-and-one-half story wing attached to the main block by a hyphen. The north end of this wing is Flemish bond brick and the east and west sides are beaded clapboard. Two small, two over two light windows in the gable flank an inside end chimney with one of its bricks bearing the date 1794. There is one dormer on both the east and west sides of the wing and two on the west side of the main block.

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This small dwelling is nationally significant for its architectural interest as one of the few examples of diamond-shaped chimney stacks of an early period in this county.

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Two diamond shaped chimney stacks give the Reward, or Williams Point Farm, unique architectural distinction in Maryland; no other building has been found in the state with this type of chimney. "What is almost as unusual as the discovery itself is that the date of these chimney stacks is as late as 1794, if the carving on the kitchen chimney is an indication. The diamond stack, meaning a chimney stack or shaft set diagonally on its base, originated in medieval England. In the late sixteenth century it seems the unusual chimney stacks were set square or diamond-like, and were built singly or in groups. The Reward is fortunate in having both types of shaft on the main house: a single square stack on the west side, and twin diamonds on the east....This dwelling was a major discovery for the history of southern architecture."

In 1796 Thomas Williams (d. 1804) acquired 212 acres near the Pocomoke River, and is probably the builder of the structure now standing. The Federal Direct Tax Assessment for Somerset County for 1798 lists a house of similar dimensions and description as belonging to the heirs of Thomas Williams, and as occupied by his wife Martha Williams:

Situate on the mouth of Pokomoke River adjoining a fast landing on said River. 1 dwelling house 30 x 30 one story high with 3 windows 5 1/2 x 3 and 2 windows 4 1/2 x 2 1/2 and 4 windows 3 1/2 x 2 1/2. Brick walls and wood roof. 1 kitchen 18 x 22 with a covered way from said kitchen to the dwelling house of wood. 1 wood milk house 9 x 8 and 1 meat house 12 x 12 and 1 carriage house 22 x 10 all wood. Valued \$500.

Henry Chandlee Forman, Tidewater Maryland Architecture and Gardens, (New York: 1956), p. 23, 25.

(see continuation sheet)

Federal Direct Tax Assessment. 1798. Somerset County, Particular List, Dwelling Houses, Pocomoke Hundred. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland. The Thomas Williams referred to in the Tax Assessment was the father of the builder of the house.

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) 1

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Somerset	
FOR NPS USE ON	LY
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

#### Reward

Number 8. Significance continued.

After Thomas Williams' death his lands were partitioned and that portion upon which the house was located was devised to his nephew Thomas Williams Wilkins, who sold it to Lodewick Milbourn in 1809. In his will, written in 1825, Milbourn left his property to his three sons, who appealed to the Chancery Court in 1838 for an equitable division of the estate. All that part of the real estate described as "Pocomoke Farm" was subsequently sold to Moses C. Smith, the owner of a hotel in Princess Anne. Advertisements listing estate sales were regularly put up at his hotel in the 1840's, as well as at a hotel belonging to Theodore G. Dashiell and at the courthouse.

The Reward is located on part of a 400 acre tract of land which was known as Glyneath in 1663 when it was granted to Jenkin Price. Resurveyed in 1683 for 850 acres, the enlarged tract was renamed the Entrance.

Williams Point was called Penfax Point in the 1670's, after Jenkin Price sold Glyneath to Daniel Penfax of London. Somerset court records for 1696 described an early road which ran from Penfax Point to the courthouse, in a northwesterly direction, along the west side of the Pocomoke River. Jenkin Price was himself a road surveyor for Somerset County in 1666, empowered "to act according to the Act of Assembly in regard to making a highway."

A portion of the Entrance was acquired in 1687 by Stephen White, and granted by him to Elias White, his brother, in 1752. Their father, John White, played a prominent role in Somerset County affairs. Arriving in Maryland about 1664, he was made a member of the Commission of the Peace for the Eastern Shore in 1665 and 1666, sat on the first court for Somerset County in 1666, and was named in successive commissions to the court in 1669, 1672, 1675, and 1676. In 1669 John White was made the captain of a company of horse, in 1678 he served as a representative from Somerset County to the Lower House of the Maryland Assembly, and in 1681 he was appointed county sheriff.

<sup>3</sup>Chancery Papers #8427, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

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Form 10-300		UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
(Rev. 6-72)	7	NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

	Maryland	
COUNTY	:	
	Somerset	
	FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY D	ATE	

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM (Type all entries- complete applicable sections) T. NAME COMMON: Reward Williams Point Farm 2. LOCATION STREET AND NUMBER: Confluence of the Pocomoke River and Pocomoke Sound on Williams Point Road Shelltown First COUNTY: CODE 24 Maryland Somerset 0.50 3. CLASSIFICATION CATEGORY **ACCESSIBLE** OWNERSHIP STATUS (Check One) TO THE PUBLIC District Building Public Yes: Public Acquisition: Occupied Restricted ☐ Site X Private In Process ☐ Structure Unoccupied Unrestricted D Object Both Being Considered Preservation war No No in progress PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) Agricultural ☐ Government Pork Comments ☐ Tronsportation Commercial Industrial 🔯 Private Residence Other (Specify) ☐ Educational · . Militory Religious ☐ Entertoinment Museum Scientific 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY OWNER'S NAME: Mrs. William S. Morsell ш ш Elkridge Estates STATE: CODE Baltimore Maryland 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Maryland Hall of Records Commission St. John's Campus, Callege Avenue STATE CODE <u>Annapolis</u> REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS TITLE OF SURVEY DATE OF SURVEY: County DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS STREET AND NUMBER CITY OF TOWN: CODE

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Williams Point Farm, or the Reward, is located at the confluence of the Pocomoke River and Pocomoke Sound on Williams Point Road, about one mile southwest of Shelltown.

This one-and-one-half story dwelling has a steep gable roof with two diamond shaped chimney stacks piercing the east slope of the roof. The stacks join at the top two courses and rise well above the roof peak. The main block of the house is three bays wide and two deep and constructed of whitewashed brick laid in Flemish bond.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Two diamond shaped chimney stacks give the Reward, or Williams Point Farm, unique architectural distinction in Maryland; no other building has been found in the state with this type of chimney. "What is almost as unusual as the discovery itself is that the date of these chimney stacks is as late as 1794, if the carving on the kitchen chimney is an indication. The diamond stack, meaning a chimney stack or shaft set diagonally on its base, originated in medieval England. In the late sixteenth century it seems the unusual chimney stacks were set square or diamond-like, and were built singly or in groups. The Reward is fortunate in having both types of shaft on the main house: a single square stack on the west side, and twin diamonds on the east...This dwelling was a major discovery for the history of southern architecture."

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(see continuation sheet)

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	$\circ$
Maryland	5-69
COUNTY	
Somerset	
FOR NPS USE ON	LY
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Continuation Sheet) 1

(Number all entries)

#### Reward

Number 8. Significance continued.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Chancery Papers #8427, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

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	evaluate	d accord	ine to t	the crite	ria and procedur	ec cet					
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# U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1973-729-147 1442 3-

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

S-69

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Somerset	
FOR NPS USE ON	ILY
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

#### Reward

Number 9. Major Bibliographical References continued.

3 volumes. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1950. Forman, Henry Chandlee. <u>Tidewater Maryland Architecture and Gardens</u>. New York: Bonanza Books, 1956.

Richardson, Hester Dorsey. <u>Side-Lights on Maryland History</u>. 2 volumes Baltimore: Williams and Wilkins. 1913.

Torrence, William Clayton. Old Somerset on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. reprint. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company. 1966.

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

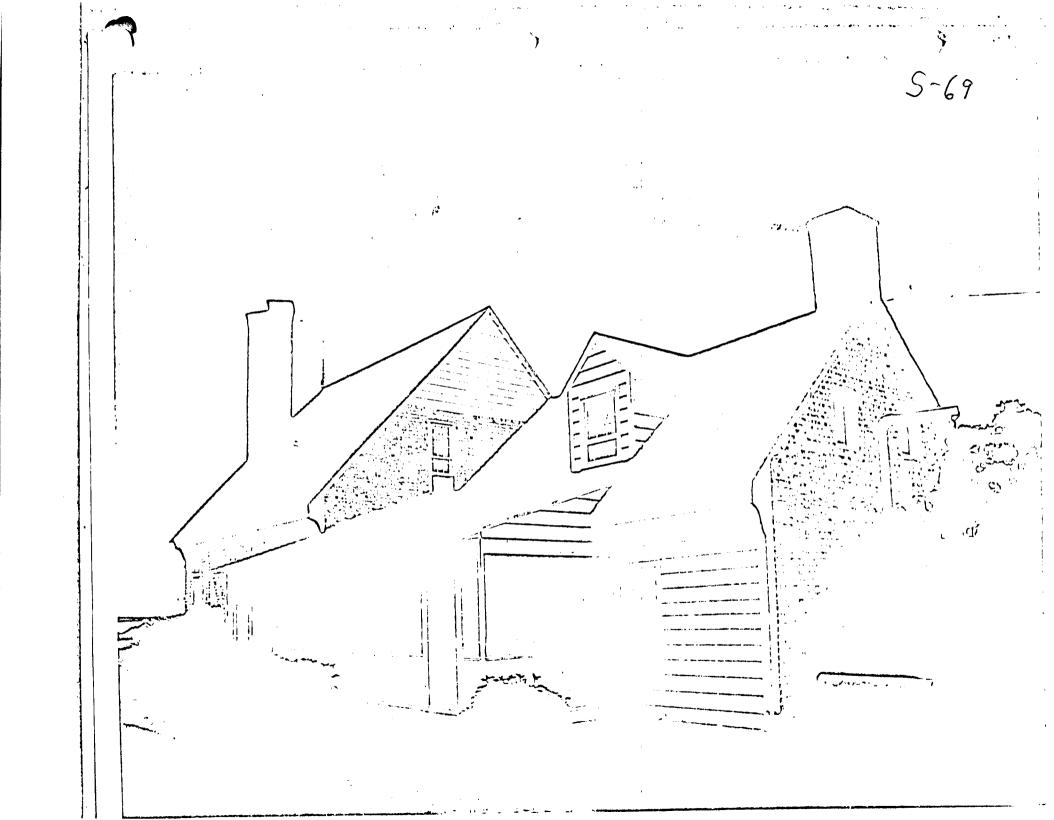
### PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

S-69

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

Reward Williams Point Farm  2. LOCATION  STATE COUNTY TO  Maryland Somerset  STREET AND NUMBER  Confluence of the Pocomoke River and Pocomoke Sound on Williams Point Farm  To Maryland Somerset  FHOTO REFERENCE PATE	MERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
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3. PHOTO REFERENCE  FHOTO CREDIT  DATE  NE	
	liams Point Road
1 34.	
l Na	ryland Historical Trust
Anthony O James 6/73 2:	525 Riva Road
4. IDENTIFICATION A	napolis, Maryland 21035
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.	

GPO 932-009



(July 1968)

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE PATERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

COMMON	TANO/OB	
	ANO/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS
Reward -	Williams Point Farm	
2. LOCATION	WIII THE THIM	
STATE	COUNTY	
Maryland		TOWN
<del></del>	Somerset	Shelltown
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Confluence of the Poco	DATE	und on Williams Point Road

#### ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE

MARYLAND

Date Entered

AUG 1 3 1974

Name

Location

Reward~

Shelltown vicinity
Somerset County

Myrtle Grove

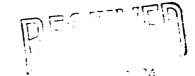
Easton Talbot County

# COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION

#### Also Notified

Hon. Charles McC. Mathias, Jr.

Hon. J. Glenn Beall, Jr. Hon. Robert E. Bauman



SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOCHAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

1. STATE COUNTY Somerset TOWN Shellton VICINITY STREET NO.

ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE Dwelling Mr. Williams PRESENT OWNER Dwelling PRESENT USE WALL CONSTRUCTION Flemish Bond Brick NO. OF STORIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY

2 NAME Williams Point Farm S-69

DATE OR PERIOD Late 17th century W/ STYLE Maryland Colonial/1794 addition ARCHITEC BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION

OPEN TO PUBLIC

l o

This is a very unusual house of the colonial period. The main house is almost a square. It is three bays wide and three bays deep. The first storey windows are 12/12 while those on the second storey are 9/9. On the sides of the house the windows have flat brick arches. On the gable ends the arches are segmental. The door is in the center bay on the pediment end. There is a simple water table of square protruding brick. Although the brick is now painted random glazed headers and stretchers can be seen. On the gable ends the brick steps short of the roof peak to leave a triangular section of clapboard. Possibly the original roof may have been a jerkin The unusual feature of this house are the double diamond-shaped chimneys which rise from one side wall. They are very high and are decidedly a Jacobean hangover. This is possibly the only house in Maryland to have such medieval chimneys.

A low  $1_2$  storey colonnade connects the main house to a  $1_2$ storey 3 bay Flemish Bond Brick kitchen wing. There is an enclosed chimney at one end of this wing with a brick in it dated 1794.

This house has suffered some unfortunate alterations such as the addition of large dormers to the roof and sections of modern aluminum siding. Because of its very unusual chimneys it should be preserved.

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered

Interior

Exterior

Well-maintained

6. LOCATION MAP (Plon Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH 9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER

3. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

Paul A. Brinkman

See "The Reword" - in Forman, H.C.

Tidewater 111d. Hick + Gardens 1967 p. 23-25, 43

8/**8/**6**7** DATE OF RECORD







5-69 W. Mismo Point Farm Somerset

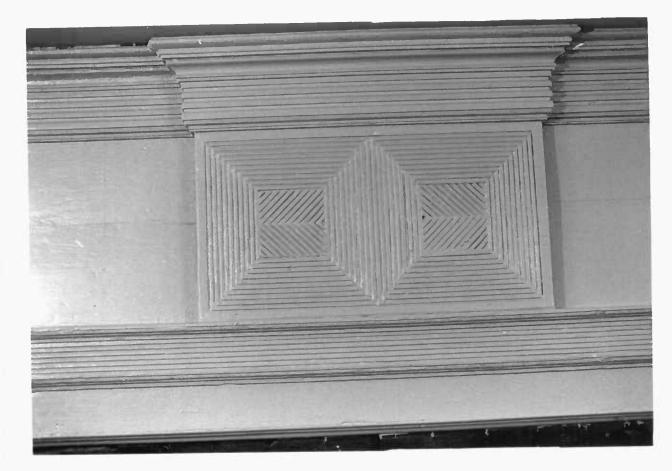


Photographed by DANIEL C. CHURCH





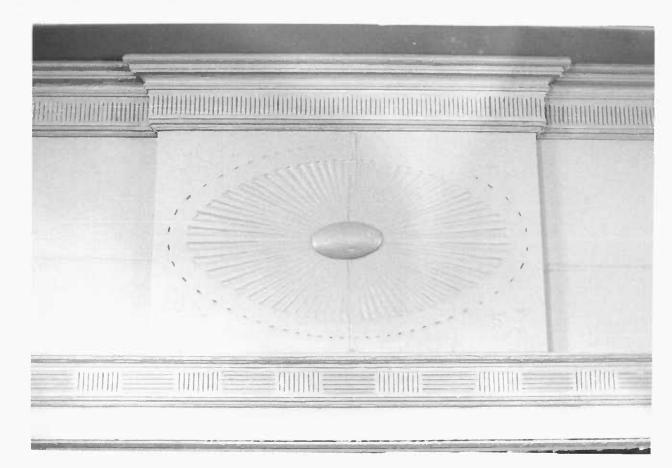
Reward S-69 William's Point, Somerset County Federal Mantel 8/85, Paul Touart, Photographer Neg./Md. Historical Trust



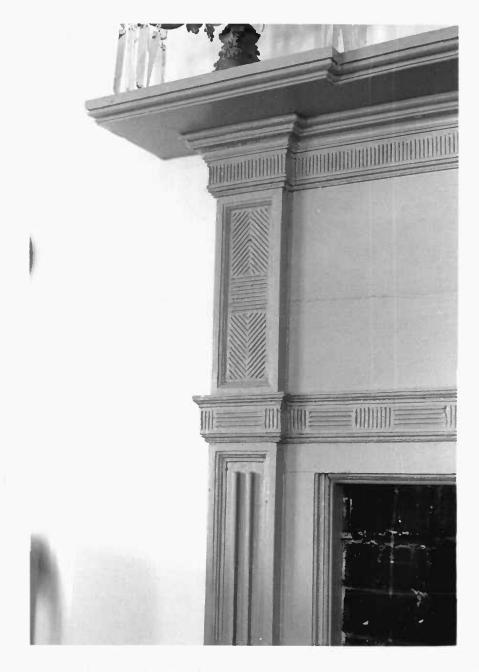
Reward S-69 William's Point, Somerset County Federal Mantel Detail 8/85, Paul Touart, Photographer Neg./Md. Historical Trust



Reward S-69 William's Point, Somerset county Federal Mantel 8/85, Paul Touart, Photographer Neg./Md. Historical Trust



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Reward S-69
William's Point, Somerset county
Federal Mantel Detail
8/85, Paul Touart, Photographer
Neg./Md. Historical Trust